

REMARKS:

In the Office Action mailed on March 24, 2004, the Examiner objected to claim 4 because of an informality, rejected claims 3 and 11 under section 112 as having unclear elements, rejected claim 1 under section 102 (b) as being anticipated by Olson (US 5,599,192), rejected claims 1 - 4 under section 102 (b) as being anticipated by Nakamura et al (US 5,224,866), rejected claims 1-5 under section 103 (a) as being an obvious combination of Japan Publication # 2000260509 in view of Olson, rejected claims 1-6 and 8-14 under section 103 (a) as being an obvious combination of Okura (US 5,976,916) in view of Olson, and indicated that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With this amendment claims 1, 3, 5 10, and 11 have been amended, claim 7 has been canceled, and claim 15 has been added. Claims 1-6 and 8-15 remain in this application.

The Examiner is thanked for his consideration indicating that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New claim 15 includes the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 5, 6 and allowable claim 7. Since new claim 15 follows the suggestion of the Examiner, it should now be allowable.

Claim 4 has been amended to correct the informality of a typographic error.

To overcome the rejection under section 112, claims 3 and 11 have been amended by deleting the element of "a distal end of the mounting portion" and replacing it with "an end of the mounting portion opposite the convex contact portion".

To overcome the rejection under 102 (a) and 103 (b), claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include the limitations of the contact projection on a second terminal continuously sliding over the continuous arcuate contact surface of a first terminal from the first mating of the connectors until a final mated condition of the connectors. None of the references show this relationship. More specifically, both Olson '357 and Olson '192 in Figure 7 show contact bump 150 initially engaging a straight non-arcuate portion 180 of the mating terminal and thereafter, as shown in figure 5, the contact bump is no longer in contact with any portion of the mating terminal. Figure 8 of Nakamura et al. shows terminal contact point 43b first engaging the flat non-arcuate angled contact portion 56a, then sliding over the curved portion, and finally resting on the flat non-arcuate vertical contact surface of arm 56. After the terminal contact point 225 of the Japanese reference engages a curved surface of the mating terminal, it follows along a straight non-arcuate surface of the mating terminal

arm. As best shown in figures 6 and 7 of Okura, the contact end 25 of one terminal first engages the U-shaped portion 42 of the mating terminal, then follows along a straight non-arcuate surface, and finally ends up in a dent 45.

To sustain a rejection of anticipation or obviousness, all of the claim elements must be either in one reference, in a combination of references or in a combination of at least one reference and some element in the prior art where any of the combinations are obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Since, as shown above, none of these references, either alone or in combination with each other, show a terminal in continuous sliding engagement with a continuous arcuate contact surface of a mating terminal from their initial engagement to their final mating condition, then the rejections of anticipation and obviousness have been overcome.

With the amendments above, the applicants believe that all of the objections and rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all of the claims remaining in this application and to grant a patent.

Respectfully submitted,

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